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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PAT PROCTOR
41ST DISTRICT
LEAVENWORTH AND FORT LEAVENWORTH

March 20, 2021

Re: Support for House Bill 2011

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee in support of House Bill 2111.

This bill would move KPERS for Corrections Group A members—the actual Corrections Officers who perform security functions in our state prisons—from KPERS for Correction to KPERS for Police and Fire (KP&F). All future Corrections Officers would automatically be enrolled in KP&F.

The following chart highlights the important differences between these two flavors of KPERS:

	KPERS For Correction Officers	KP&F (Same for KPERS 1 and 2)
Contribution	6%	7.15%
Guaranteed Interest Earned	4%	4%
Vesting	5 years (KPERS 1, 3 years)	15 years
Benefits salary calculation	Average last five years	Average of three highest of last five years
Multiplier for benefits	1.85% per year (KPERS 1, 1.75% for years before 2014)	2.5% per year
Disability Benefit	60% after 180 days	50%, no waiting period
Life insurance	150% of annual salary	Service connected, None. Non-Service connected, Spouse, 100% of annual salary
Death Benefit	May be eligible for monthly benefit	Service connected, Spouse 50%, Kids 10%, up to 90% total Non-Service connected, Spouse, 2.5% x years of service up to 50%

Optional life insurance (Member, Spouse, Child)	\$250K, \$25K, \$20K	\$250K, \$25K, \$20K
Retirement Age	55 with 10 years (KPERS 1, also if age plus service = 85)	50 with 25 years 55 with 20 years 60 with 15 years
Early/Reduced benefits	50 with 10 years	50 with 20 years
Min years working immediately before retirement	3	None

Since I began my effort to make this change in retirement for Corrections Officers, I have learned quite a bit about the nuances of making this change. Thus, if this bill continues forward in the legislative process, I will offer an amendment that makes two changes.

First, I will remove the election. Currently the bill gives current Corrections Officers the option of staying in KPERS for Corrections. I have since discovered that this is a violation of IRS tax code. It must be removed for the bill to be in harmony with federal tax law.

Second, I will change the calculation of benefits so that the current Corrections Officers' benefits are calculated based on their time in each flavor of KPERS, rather than carrying all of the KPERS for Corrections years over to KP&F. This will remove the over \$90 million unfunded liability that is described in the current fiscal note.

I have many corrections officers in my district. Every one of them I speak to wants this change. They understand that it will require them to serve 15 years rather than 5 years to vest. But they like KP&F because it allows them to retire earlier.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to answering your questions.

Pat Proctor
State Representative
House District 41